1/13/72

Dear Harold,

I'm awfly sorry to hear about your thumb. How did it happen? I hope you're doing well.

As you understand, I was ~~not~~ not aware you didn't want said over the phone what Jerry asked me to tell him and with which I complied. I should have exercised better judgement myself.

On the thing with Wecht, I've been giving it serious thought all day since I read your recent numerous mailings. First of all, it is apparent to me that you will not get through to Cyril, especially with the approach you have taken all along, which has been to be totally ambiguous and demand "THINK." Unfortunately, nobody is thinking like you, especially people who do not understand the position of the Kennedies and view tham as real suppressers. Last year, I could condone that approach. I do not now, not when, if your position proves correct we may be severely damaged, it is crucial for others to understand what you are saying. You may not want to explain it over the phone, but at least in writing.

But even if Cyril does read you clearly, it seems unlikely to me he will heed you. In short, I think there is no stopping him now. Furthermore, I got the impression when I was sucked into the Ned affair that your relations with Wecht had been all but ruined. It occurred at the same time, and I caught only a little of it from Jerry, who was in touch with Sylvia. Apparently you sent such an inflamed letter to Wecht that he was ready to tell you to go fuck yourself. He was really pissed off, as I understood it. I think Sylvia agreed with him. I got the distinct impression that both he and Sylvia didn't have the faintest idea what you were talking about and saw <u>you</u> as being on the ego trip, jealous and ungrateful. This account is what I picked up. not my personal opinion. But it has influenced my thinking on the matter, because I think now Cyril is even less inclined to listen to you, and he will be more suspicious of you, and your motives in trying to stop him.

I ask myself if some saving compromise is not possible? If Cyril gets to see the films, it seems your chief concern, other than what it will deny you, is that it will be used to get all those responsible off the hook by saying the Kennedys suppressed all this. Well, when he makes the earth-shaking announcement that the pix and X-rays disprove the WR, couldn't he also announce, acknowledging that it is based on your investigation, that the Kennedys did <u>not</u> suppress this stuff, that the Commission had it, the staff and docs saw it, and an examination was to be made for the WC? You see, Harold, I cannot see how you can stop Cyril, other than having him denied permission. But I'm not so sure I agree that he should be denied permission, now that they have let Lattimer in. I also think there is the chance Cyril will get access. If he does, the announcement he will make is inevitable, and if he is going to make such a statemtn, he might as well do it in a way which can best avert the type of damage you fear, namely destroying the myth that the family is responsible for suppression.

Have you thought about such an alternative? This is a recent thought of mine, but I wanted to commit it to paper and suggest it to you. I previously supported your thinking on this, but that is not so easy for me now with what Lattimer is doing.

Best,

Howard